

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Claim 1 (currently amended):** A non-contact tonometer comprising:  
an alignment light source for ~~projecting~~ emitting a light flux for alignment ~~[[to]]~~ of a cornea ~~[[for]]~~ of an eye to be examined;

a projection optical system for projecting the light flux from the alignment light source onto the cornea of the eye to be examined;

image capture means for sensing an image obtained from a reflected alignment light flux which is the light flux projected onto and reflected by the cornea of the eye to be examined;

a sensor for capturing an image the eye to be examined;

image processing means for picking up a plural specific areas directed to light of the light flux for alignment which is reflected by the eye to be examined, within an image signal obtained by the sensor;

calculation means for calculating a reference value on the basis of the processed image signals obtained on the plural specific areas;

a cornea deformation means for ~~pressurizing air in a cylinder,~~ and deforming the cornea of the eye to be examined by blowing ~~[[the]]~~ pressurized air onto the cornea of the eye to be examined;

an intraocular pressure measurement light source for ~~projecting~~ emitting a measurement light flux for measurement ~~[[to]]~~ of an intraocular pressure of the eye to be examined;

the projection optical system for projecting the measurement light flux from the intraocular pressure measurement light source onto the cornea of the eye to be examined;

intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means for detecting a reflected measurement light flux which is quantity of the measurement light flux for measurement from projected onto and reflected by the cornea of the eye to be examined; and

intraocular pressure calculation means for calculating an intraocular pressure on the basis of an output signal of the intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means and a pressure value in the cylinder; and

reliability determination means for providing a reliability level of the calculated intraocular pressure on the basis of the output signal of the intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means and the reference value

a CPU for determining a reliability level of an output signal which is output from the intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means in comparison with a reference level which is varied on the basis of an intensity of the image sensed by the image capture means.

**Claims 2-4 (cancelled):**

**Claim 5 (withdrawn):** A method of measuring intraocular pressure comprising the steps of:

- projecting an alignment detection light flux to an eye to be examined;
- performing alignment adjustment based on reflected light of the alignment detection light flux;
- blowing a fluid onto the eye to be examined while projecting an intraocular pressure measurement light flux to the eye to be examined;
- receiving reflected light of said intraocular pressure measurement light flux from said eye to be examined and outputting a received light signal;
- determining a reference value to be compared with said received light signal based on received light quantity of said reflected light of the alignment detection light flux,
- wherein said reference value is based on a brightness of bright points based on image data of an anterior ocular segment at a time of alignment; and
- determining validity of said received light signal by comparing said reference value and a level of the received light signal.

**Claim 6 (withdrawn):** A method of measuring intraocular pressure according to claim 5 further comprising a step of measuring an intraocular pressure value in the case that it is determined that said received light signal is valid.

**Claim 7 (withdrawn):** A method according to claim 5 further comprising a step of displaying the measured value on a monitor in the case that it is determined that said received light signal is valid.

**Claim 8 (withdrawn):** A method of measuring intraocular pressure comprising the steps of:

- projecting an alignment detection light flux to an eye to be examined;

receiving reflected light of said alignment detection light flux from the eye to be examined;

projecting intraocular pressure measurement light flux to the eye to be examined;  
and

determining validity of measurement of the intraocular pressure by comparing a reference value based on a brightness of bright points based on image data of an anterior ocular segment at a time of alignment and determined based on said reflected light of the alignment light flux from said eye to be examined, and a level of reflected light of said intraocular pressure measurement light flux.

**Claim 9 (new):** A non-contact tonometer according to claim 1, wherein the CPU varies the reference level by assigning the intensity of the image sensed by the image capture means to a predetermined conversion formula.

**Claim 10 (new):** A non-contact tonometer according to claim 9, wherein the CPU obtains a peak value from output signals which are time-series signals output from the intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means, and determines a warning level or an error level of signals output from the intraocular pressure measurement light receiving means by comparing the reference level with the peak value.